Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 EA-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NEA-10 NSAE-00

USIA-06 OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01

OMB-01 STR-04 /093 W

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R 022016Z DEC 76

FM USMISSION OECD PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASH DC 4536

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, OECD, PO, SP, CA

SUBJ: RECENT IMPORT RESTRICTION MEASURES

1. DECEMBER 13 MEETING OF TRADE COMMITTEE WORKING PARTY, DEVOTED MAINLY TO SETTING MEETING SCHEDULE FOR COMING MONTHS, WILL ALSO HAVE ON ITS AGENDA THE FOLLOWING RECENT NOTIFICATIONS OF CHANGES IN TRADE POLICY. DEPARTMENT SHOULD PROVIDE MISSION WITH ANY COMMENTS US WISHES TO MAKE ON THESE MEASURES BY DECEMBER 13.

PORTUGAL-PRIOR DEPOSIT SCHEME AND INCREASED
IMPORT SURCHARGES
 TC(76)3/16 ADD 4 AND 5
SPAIN-TARIFF INCREASES
 TC(76)3/06
CANADA-IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON DOUBLE KNIT FABRICS
 TC(76)3/04 ADD 4

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2. OF THESE NOTIFICATIONS, MEASURES TAKEN BY SPAIN WOULD SEEM TO MERIT DETAILED EXAMINATION. THE TARIFF INCREASES COVER A VERY BROAD RANGE OF PRODUCTS AND WERE INTRODUCED SPECIFICALLY UNDER A PROGRAM TO SAFE-GUARD THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS. THEY THUS APPEAR TO BE A VIOLATION OF THE TRADE PLEDGE, TO WHICH SPAIN (UNLIKE PORTUGAL) ADHERES. WE WOULD THEREFORE RECOMMEND THAT AT DECEMBER 13 TCWP MEETING US SUGGEST A FULL SCALE TCWP CONSULTATION ON THE SPANISH MEASURES SHOULD TAKE PLACE EARLY IN NEW YEAR.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, TRADE, POLICIES, IMPORTS, COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 02 DEC 1976 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976OFCDP35694

Document Number: 19760ECDP35694
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A Film Number: D760447-0799 From: OECD PARIS Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761279/aaaacqed.tel Line Count: 72

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Office: ACTION EUR

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a

Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 15 APR 2004

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <04 AUG 2004 by ellisoob>

Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MÁY 2006

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: RECENT IMPORT RESTRICTION MEASURES TAGS: ETRD, PO, SP, CA, OECD To: STATE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006